



# **VP-4 Skinny Dragons**

**Operations Security (OPSEC) and  
Social Networking**

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# OPSEC and Social Networking

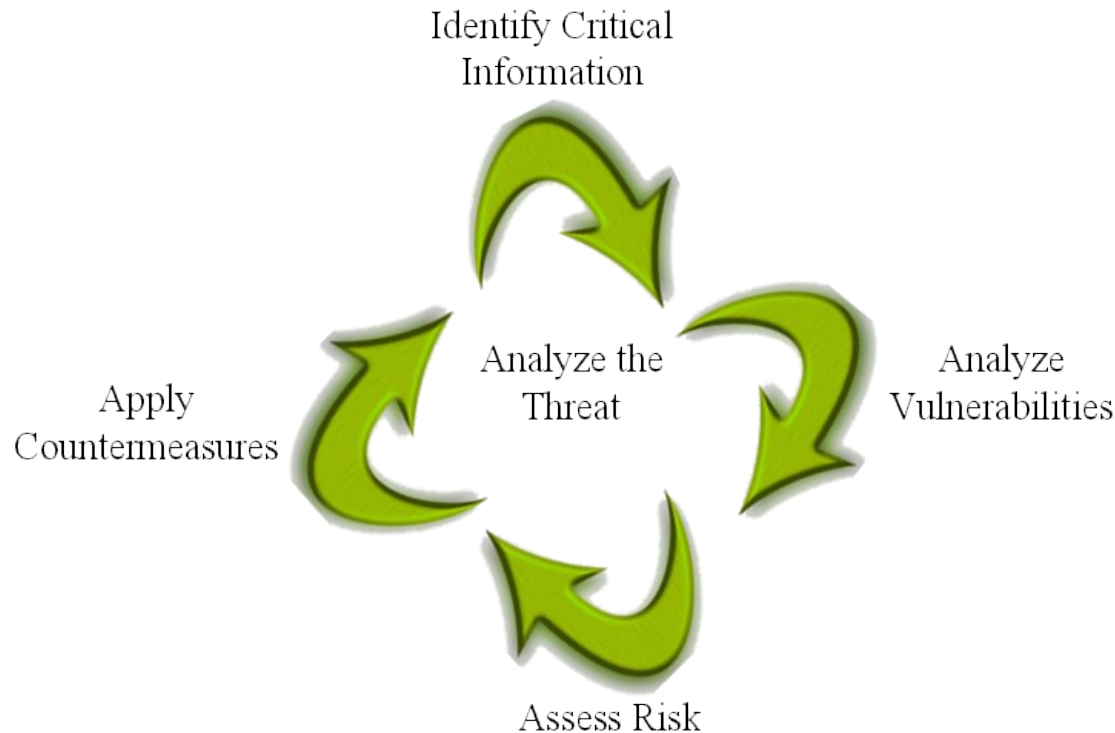




# Operations Security OPSEC

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OPSEC is a process that identifies critical information, outlines potential threats and risks and develops counter measures to safeguard critical information



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# Critical Information

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- Information **we must protect** to ensure success
- Information the **adversary needs** to prevent our success.

- Names and photos of you, your family and co-workers
- Usernames, passwords, network details
- Job title, location, salary, clearances
- Physical security and logistics
- Position, mission capabilities and limitations
- Operations & missions
- Schedules and travel itineraries
- Social security number, credit cards, banking information
- Hobbies, likes, dislikes etc.

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# Data Aggregation

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- Information collection from multiple sources
- Al Qaeda handbook: open and legal public sources accounts for 80% of all information collected
- Legal and illegal collection methods

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# Potential Vulnerabilities

## Methods used to obtain Critical Information:

- Unprotected communications
- Sharing too much with strangers
- HUMINT Observation
- Technology
- Trash
- Media
- Email
- Web pages
- Social Networking Sites



**Illegal methods are OK with adversaries!!!**

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# Social Networking

Social Networking Sites (SNS) allow people to network, interact and collaborate to share information, data and ideas without geographic boundaries.

Google<sup>TM</sup>  
Social

☺ friendster.

facebook

foursquare



TAGGED

hi5



Blogger

USTREAM.TV



netvibes



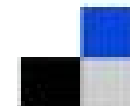
Fröpper

You Tube

Broadcast Yourself

LinkedIn

YAHOO! 360°  
BETA



del.icio.us

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# The Danger

Al-Qaeda communiqué December 2009:

“The affair with the U.S. Navy began several years ago, when the lions of Al-Qaeda struck the destroyer U.S.S. Cole, in Yemen; now, with Allah’s help, all the American vessels in the seas and oceans, including aircraft carriers, submarines, and all

Information on every U.S. Naval unit should be quietly gathered...what state they are from, their **family** situation, and where their **family** members live...

...search for the easiest ways of striking these ships...

.... Do not underestimate the importance of any piece of information, as simple as it may seem....

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# DO'S & DON'TS of SOCIAL NETWORKING



# “Do”

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## Do: Verify All Friend Requests

Social engineering and “conning” starts with a friend request



Adversaries can get the data from

- Free people search engines
- Other SNS's
- Your posts/profile
- Your friends posts/profile

## Verify Requests Before Approving

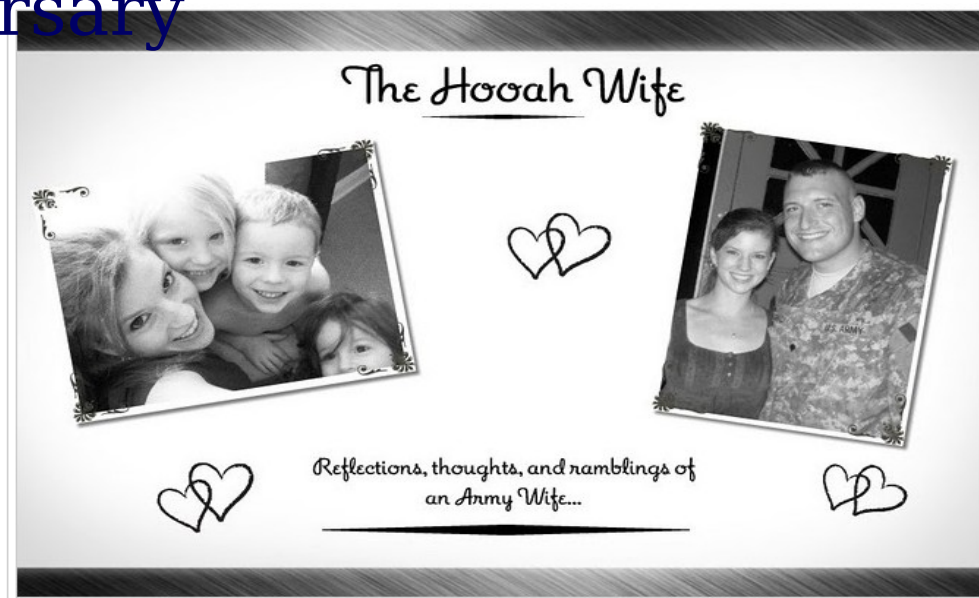


# “Do”

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## Do: Blog with Caution

- Avoid details, don't get personal
- Who is reading your blog?
- Lessons learned 101 for the adversary



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# “Do”

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## Do: Be an Informed User of a SNS

- How much personal information do you broadcast?
- Are you very careful about what details you post?
- Do you understand data aggregation issues?
- Are you willing to find and learn all the security settings and keep up with them as they change?



Are you willing to accept the risk?

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# “Do”

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Do: Assume the Internet is FOREVER

- There is no true delete on the internet
- WWW means World Wide Web
- Every Picture
- Every Post
- Every Detail

forever



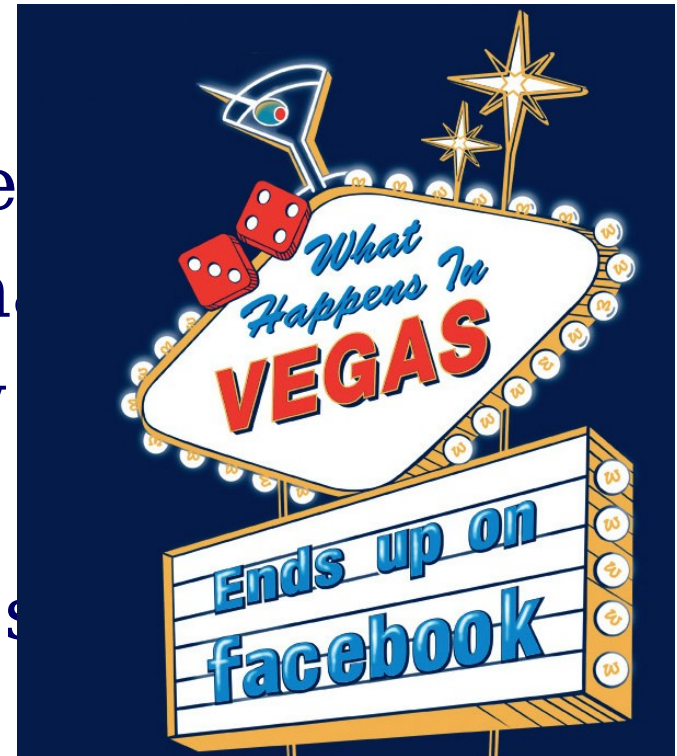


# “Don’t”

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## Don’t: Discuss Details

- Never post anything you would not tell directly to the person you are talking to
- Never post private or personal information - no matter how secure you think your settings are
- Assume the information you post will be made public



Details make you vulnerable



# “Don’t”

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- Do NOT post exact deployment dates
  - Avoid the use of count-up or count-down tickers
- Don’t speculate about future operations
- If posting pictures, don’t post anything that could be misconstrued or used for propaganda purposes
- Do not pass on rumors



# “Do NOT discuss ”

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- Flight routes, flight schedules
- Detailed information on the mission, capabilities or morale of a unit
- Do not post deployment locations or detachment sites
  - After the deployment is officially announced by Military officials, you may discuss locations that have been released, normally on the Country level
- Security procedures, response times, tactics
- Equipment or lack thereof, to include training equipment

# Questions?

*Countries don't have friends...*



*They have interests. Which country is interested in what you do?*

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